Frequency of Chennai Rajdhani Express

3237. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the bi-weekly Chennai Rajdhani Express is having good occupancy;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to increase its frequency, from the existing bi-weekly to six days a week; and

(c) what steps are being taken to reduce the commuting time to around 24 hours, to make it more attractive and popular with the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The average class-wise occupancy of Train No. 2433 Chennai-Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express and 2434 Nizamuddin-Chennai Rajdhani Express during the period April to September 2002 is as under:-

TrainNo.	IAC	2AC	3AC
2433	34%	71%	79%
2434	43%	81%	80%

(b) Presently, 2433/2434 Nizamuddin-Chennai-Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express runs twice a week. There are 5 more pairs of Express trains between Chennai and Delhi which are considered adequate for the present level of traffic between the two stations. Increase in frequency of 2433/2434 Nizamuddin-Chennai Rajdhani Express is not feasible due to operational constraints and for the lack of commercial justification.

(c) At present 2433/2434 Nizamuddin-Chennai-Nizamuddin Rajdhani Express takes approximately 28 hours and 30 minutes between Delhi and Chennai, running at an average speed of approximately 77 Kilometer per Hour. Further reduction in its travelling time is not feasible due to operational constraints.

Payment of cess by Konkan Railway

3238. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Konkan Railway has not paid Rs. 1.75 crores as N.A. Cess (Tax) to the Collector, inspite of repeated reminders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to pay the above tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per shareholders agreement between participating State Governments, levy for non agricultural use of land is not leviable on Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL), as the Maharashtra State is one of the shareholders in the Corporation.

(c) Ministry of Railways has taken up this issue with Government of Maharashtra to review its decision and exempt Konkan Railway Corporation Limited from these charges.

Engineers and workers for rail safety

3239. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of engineers and workers on roll and entrusted with rail safety, track maintenance, bridge maintenance, etc., as on 31st March in 1990 and 2002; and

(b) the number of engineers and workers on roll for the above works under Eastern Railway, before and after the bifurcation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

New train between Rewari and Delhi

3240. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the new time table, a new train was to be introduced between Rewari and Delhi, from July, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the train has been introduced as, proposed; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Yes, Sir. A Metre Gauge Passenger train between Rewari and Delhi Sarai Rohilla had been announced in the Railway Budget, 2002-2003.